

House File 218 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 218

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to social work, including the licensure of
2 social workers and the creation of a licensed social worker
3 loan repayment program and a revolving fund.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 154C.1, Code 2011, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. "*Social worker*" means a person who
4 holds a current license under this chapter or has received a
5 baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree in social work from
6 an accredited school of social work approved by the council on
7 social work education.

8 Sec. 2. Section 154C.2, Code 2011, is amended by striking
9 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 **154C.2 License required — use of title.**

11 1. A person shall not engage in the practice of social work
12 unless such person meets one of the following requirements:

13 a. Has received a baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral
14 degree in social work from an accredited school of social work
15 approved by the council on social work education.

16 b. Holds a current social worker license pursuant to section
17 154C.3.

18 2. A government entity, public or private agency, or other
19 entity shall not use the title "social worker" or any form
20 of the title, including but not limited to the abbreviations
21 "S.W.", "B.S.W.", "M.S.W.", "D.S.W.", "L.B.S.W.", "L.M.S.W.",
22 or "L.I.S.W.", for volunteer or employment positions or within
23 contracts for services, documents, manuals, or reference
24 materials unless the volunteers or employees in those positions
25 are licensed social workers as set forth in this chapter.

26 Sec. 3. Section 154C.3, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
27 to read as follows:

28 1. *License requirements.* An applicant for a license as a
29 bachelor social worker, master social worker, or independent
30 social worker shall meet the following requirements in addition
31 to paying all fees required by the board:

32 a. *Bachelor social worker.* An applicant for a license as a
33 bachelor social worker shall present evidence satisfactory to
34 the board that the applicant:

35 (1) Possesses a bachelor's degree in social work from an

1 ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work approved
2 by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

3 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

4 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a bachelor
5 social worker in accordance with standards for professional
6 conduct established by the board.

7 *b. Master social worker.* An applicant for a license as a
8 master social worker shall present evidence satisfactory to the
9 board that the applicant:

10 (1) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work
11 from an ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work
12 approved by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

13 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

14 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a master
15 social worker in accordance with standards for professional
16 conduct established by the board.

17 *c. Independent social worker.* An applicant for a license
18 as an independent social worker shall present evidence
19 satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

20 (1) Possesses a master's or doctoral degree in social work
21 from an ~~accredited college or university~~ school of social work
22 approved by the ~~board~~ council on social work education.

23 (2) Has passed an examination given by the board.

24 (3) Will conduct all professional activities as a social
25 worker in accordance with standards for professional conduct
26 established by the board.

27 (4) Has engaged in the practice of social work, under
28 supervision, for at least two years as a full-time employee or
29 for four thousand hours prior to taking the examination given
30 by the board.

31 (5) (a) Supervision shall be provided in any of the
32 following manners:

33 (i) By a social worker licensed at least at the level of the
34 social worker being supervised and qualified under this section
35 to practice without supervision.

1 (ii) By another qualified professional, if the board
2 determines that supervision by a social worker as defined
3 in subparagraph subdivision (i) is unobtainable or in other
4 situations considered appropriate by the board.

5 (b) Additional standards for supervision shall be
6 determined by the board.

7 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 261.113 Licensed social worker loan
8 repayment program.

9 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment program is
10 established, to be administered by the college student aid
11 commission for the purpose of increasing the number of social
12 workers serving in critical human service areas. For purposes
13 of this section, "*critical human service area*" includes but
14 is not limited to an area of the state with a shortage of
15 social workers providing health, mental health, substance
16 abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or child welfare services,
17 or communities with multilingual needs. These areas shall
18 be designated by the college student aid commission, in
19 consultation with a committee comprised of one representative
20 each from the commission, the department of public health, and
21 the department of human services.

22 2. The contract for the loan repayment shall stipulate the
23 time period the licensed social worker shall practice in a
24 critical human service area. In addition, the contract shall
25 stipulate that the licensed social worker repay any funds paid
26 on the person's loan by the commission if the person fails to
27 practice in a critical human service area for the required
28 period of time.

29 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 261.114 Licensed social worker loan
30 repayment revolving fund.

31 1. A licensed social worker loan repayment revolving fund
32 is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under
33 the control of the commission. The commission shall deposit
34 payments made by program participants under section 261.113,
35 subsection 2, moneys appropriated for purposes of the licensed

1 social worker loan repayment program, and any other available
2 funds into the loan repayment revolving fund. Moneys in the
3 fund shall be used for purposes of the licensed social worker
4 loan repayment program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys
5 deposited in the fund shall not revert to any fund of the state
6 at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund and
7 be continuously available for the program.

8 2. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
9 or earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited
10 to the fund.

11 3. *a.* The annual amount of loan repayment is six thousand
12 five hundred dollars for individuals who have provided
13 full-time social work services in a critical human service
14 area in the year prior to such application, provided that
15 no recipient shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the
16 total remaining balance of the student loan debt and that
17 no recipient shall receive cumulative awards in excess of
18 twenty-five thousand dollars.

19 *b.* Awards shall be within the amounts appropriated for such
20 purpose and based on availability of funds.

21 4. Loan repayment awards shall be made annually to
22 applicants in the following order of priority:

23 *a.* First priority is given to applicants who have received
24 payment of an award pursuant to this section in a prior year
25 and who have provided social work services in a critical human
26 service area in the year prior to such application.

27 *b.* Second priority is given to applicants who have not
28 received payment of an award pursuant to this section in
29 a prior year and who have provided social work services
30 in a critical human service area in the year prior to such
31 application.

32 *c.* Third priority is given to applicants who are
33 economically disadvantaged, as defined by the commission.

34 5. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
35 to administer this section.

1 EXPLANATION

2 This bill provides that only a person who is a licensed
3 social worker and has received a baccalaureate, master's,
4 or doctoral degree in social work from an accredited school
5 approved by the council on social work education may use the
6 title "social worker" or any form or abbreviation of the title.

7 The bill creates a licensed social worker loan repayment
8 program administered by the college student aid commission.
9 Applicants for the program must enter into an agreement with
10 the commission, agreeing to work for a specific period of time
11 in a "critical human service area", defined as a geographic
12 area in Iowa with a shortage of social workers in health,
13 mental health, substance abuse, aging, HIV/AIDS, victim, or
14 child welfare concerns, or communities with multilingual needs.

15 The program provides a specific annual benefit, up to
16 \$6,500, for licensed social workers who have worked in a
17 critical human service area in the previous year. No recipient
18 shall receive loan repayment that exceeds the total remaining
19 balance of the student loan debt and no recipient shall receive
20 cumulative awards in excess of \$25,000.

21 The program is funded by a special revolving fund in
22 the state treasury, controlled by the college student aid
23 commission. The fund consists of moneys appropriated for
24 purposes of the program, repayments by participants who fail
25 to meet the service area requirements, and any other available
26 moneys. Moneys deposited in the fund do not revert to the
27 state at the end of any fiscal year but shall remain in the fund
28 and be continuously available for the program. Interest or
29 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall also be credited
30 to the fund.